4/23/70

Dear Gary, cc Dick, Howard,

I wrote you of John, and Howard and Dick separately. As I drove to town to mail them last night, I found myself wondering if you'd consider me hysterical, and then I began to ask myself if this were, indeed the case. This whole Nichols things is so incredible, even with the proofs of his initial and continuing dishonesty.

Well, John has eliminated any question, at least in my mind. He is more incredible than incredible. Making a bigx out of the to him impossible garbling of the telegram, the main effort in his writing, he asks Western Union for a refund because of the garbling!

You have copies of my recent offer to him, one it troubled me to consider making and one it troubled me to make. He makes no response. I take this as an open declaration of intended further thievery, and hot that only.

It is beyond my capacity to copy it for everyone. I have neither the time nor the paper. I am making one copy, for Gary, with thenrequest he provide those who want them with copies. However, we have enough troubles, and I want this with the understanding there is no use to hurt John. He has to be very sick. If it is only ego, it is xx a sick one. I think it is also paranoia, and I hope I'm wrong.

In different ways I used a similar figure of speech to each of you, saying that if necessary I will become a hermit. Each of us does and must do his thing; each has and has the right to exercise his own judgement. However, where I am concerned, I insist that no judgment be imposed on mine or replace it where I am concerned, my materials or my desires. This is but one of the too-many worries I have. Rifht now, as Gary knows best, I ought have as few as possible. This is essential for my health, it is desireable for my effeciency, and it is particularly required when I am making breakthroughs, opening new sources and breaking new ground. Each of these demands enough. The combination of all the loads has kept me from writing, and this I must get done. So, in any event, you can look forward, at best, to fewer and shorter letters save when I do not feel like I am emotionally adjusted to productive good work.

If I may seem unreasonable, be prepared also for me to be infelxible, for I may be. To this point I have made serious errors in judgement in trusting people, but I have made none in mistrusting. I invite dispute on this point. And I think I have made fewest errors in trusting those who should not be. As some of you know, I have treated with trust those I really did not, for what I regarded as the common good.

If John does those things of which I think him capable, if it is possible I will react. One Garrison was enough; one each of Turner and Boxley too much. Now Skolnick. Soon, perhaps, John. Unfortunately, these things must be stopped else they may stop us. If there were another to do them, I'd llove it. If you can suggest who can, please do. So I order my priorities: writingxand self defense. I hope you will agree this is not selfishness, but if you disagree, it will take enormous persuasion to change me. This letter should end all relations with John, unless he does things. If he does not, I will not. If he does and I can, and if it doesn't upset or falls within the above priorities, I also will. I welcome comment, especially if you regard my letter to him as excessive.

Sincerely,

Vi